

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING – AUGUST 30, 2006

Chair Knox White called the Transportation Commission to order at 7:35 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL – Roll was called and the following recorded.

Members Present:

John Knox White
Jeff Knoth
Michael Krueger
Eric Schatmeier
Robert McFarland

Absent:

Robb Ratto

Staff Present:

Obaid Khan, Supervising Civil Engineer, Public Works
Barry Bergman, Program Specialist II, Public Works

2. Proposed Commission Policy Recommendations to the City Council Regarding Criteria for the Evaluation of Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs)

Chair Knox White asked if the background information presented at the June TC meeting should be included in the recommendations to the City Council.

Commissioners Knoth and Krueger both indicated that they felt this was important to help the Council understand why the TC was forwarding these recommendations at this time.

Staff Khan noted that staff has identified conflicts between the TC recommendations and the existing General Plan, so that adoption of the policies by the Council would have to be preceded by an environmental review. He recommended that this be integrated into the process for evaluating the Transportation Master Plan (TMP), rather than forwarding the recommendations separately. He also noted that number four on the list of policy recommendations is already included in the CEQA process.

Chair Knox White stated that while the Alameda Landing EIR included bicycle and pedestrian facilities, it did not account for the impacts of the project on bicyclists and pedestrians outside the project area.

Commissioner Krueger stated that the intent of the recommendations is as an interim measure until the TMP is approved. He emphasized that he has no interest in stopping or slowing projects, but is concerned about how projects are being implemented. He stated that since there

are a number of projects currently moving forward, it is important to have something in place while the TMP is being completed.

Chair Knox White indicated that the City Manager has said that in the future the TC will be able to get involved in project discussions at an earlier stage, along with the Planning Board, before plans have been developed.

Staff Khan recommended that the TC frame its concerns as guidelines, rather than policies, to make its concerns clear to the City Council and avoid having to conduct the environmental review and go through the process of amending the General Plan. He noted that the City Attorney's office has already indicated that they see conflicts between what the Commission has proposed and the existing General Plan. Therefore, if the recommendations are made as policies, staff would be recommending the environmental review.

Staff Bergman suggested that the Commission consider the current timeline for the TMP. He noted that a consultant was recently hired to complete the Multimodal Circulation Plan and the update of the functional classification system. The consultant's work is scheduled to be presented to the TC in December, and the review by other boards and commissions, environmental review, and approval by Council should be completed by June or July 2007. As a result, if the TC's current recommendations are submitted as policies prior to the rest of the TMP, it may be that they would only be adopted a few months earlier than if they were folded into the TMP process.

Commissioner Knoth stated that there appears to be a fundamental conflict between the spirit of Attachment 1 and Attachment 2.

Staff Bergman stated that when the Council considers the Alameda Landing EIR, they will either be looking at recommended guidelines from the TC or recommended policies. The policies will not be able to be adopted yet.

Chair Knox White expressed concern that if the recommendations are made as guidelines, that the Councilmembers may in turn point to the existing policies and dismiss the guidelines. However, they may give more weight to recommended policies.

Commissioner Knoth recommended using stronger language because when projects are actually built there have not been tangible results in terms of how they support City policies.

Chair Knox White recommended modifying Attachment 1 by changing #2 on the second page to read: "amend the General Plan where necessary to include these policies until such time as the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) is adopted by the City Council."

Chair Knox White asked that the TC's recommendations be submitted in the standard format used to communicate board and commission recommendations to the Council, rather than the letter format used in Attachment 1.

<p><i>Commissioner Knoth</i> moved to forward Attachment 1, with the recommended modification to the text, to the City Council as a policy recommendation. <i>Commissioner Schatmeier</i> seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous vote – 5.</p>
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3. Selection of Transportation Commissioner for City's Climate Protection Campaign Task Force

Commissioner Krueger volunteered to represent the TC on the Task Force. No other Commissioners volunteered.

Chair Knox White nominated *Commissioner Krueger* to represent the TC on the City's Climate Protection Task Force.

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